

I am a user of oxygen around the clock and I have occasion to travel by air several times a year. The ban on the use of portable oxygen storage devices such as the Helios LOX system and portable oxygen concentrators such as those manufactured by Inogen and Air-Sep adds immensely to the difficulties I encounter when I travel.

The Helios system operates at 22 psi, well within the safety limits of a somewhat pressurized aircraft. Given the contents of, for instance, pressurized deodorants and hair sprays, I cannot imagine that the Helios presents any real hazard.

Concentrators, by their very nature, are even more benign. They add nothing to the atmosphere, merely moving oxygen from one place and concentrating it in another. There is no pressurization involved. On a long flight one would doubtless need a way to recharge batteries; but one can already recharge computers on some aircraft, so the concentrators would present no insuperable problem.

Finally, all such devices are sold only by the prescription of a physician and are covered by the Safe Medical Devices Act. Given those two facts, it should be clear that these devices have been carefully researched, developed, produced, and evaluated.

Gentlefolk, I urge your acceptance of these devices for in-flight use. Accepting them would help improve the quality of life for many individuals who, like myself, live within boundaries defined by the availability of the air others breathe without thought. Please consider this as you continue your deliberations.